

*Imp - 105 file**To: Komer a/w  
~~Det. Wagon~~*

15. Finnish President Gloomy About Prospects for Outcome of East-West Struggle: In a meeting recently with British Ambassador Busk and former British ambassador to the Soviet Union Sir Patrick Riley, Finnish President Kekkonen expressed the belief that the Soviet Union has gained the ascendancy in the political and economic struggle. Busk commented that Kekkonen showed a case of nerves, thought war might develop, and--for the first time in many meetings--appeared to express frank belief in Soviet supremacy.

Kekkonen's pessimistic views affect his conduct of Soviet-Finnish relations. He has long held that Finland cannot rely on assistance from the West in the event of a crisis in Soviet-Finnish relations or if war threatens. Consequently, he believes relations must be conducted in a manner designed to inspire "confidence" in Finland's ability and intention to maintain its neutral position. The inability of the West or the United Nations to assist Hungary in 1956 made a deep impression on Finnish officials, who since that time appear to have become even more cautious in their dealings with the Soviet Union.

Kekkonen has actively encouraged increased trade, military, and cultural contacts with the USSR. This has been evident most recently in Finnish moves to purchase increased quantities of Soviet military equipment and in a growing number of exchange visits by military officials of the two countries. (Factual data: Emb Helsinki 134, 19 Aug 60 CONF)

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